## 15 CLAIMS

1. A method for treating Bayer process liquor containing red mud comprising contacting the Bayer process liquor with, in combination, an effective amount of a water soluble synthetic flocculate, dextran and starch prior to separating the red mud from the liquor.

- 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the red mud is separated from the liquor by a process selected from the group consisting of sedimentation, centrifugation and filtration.
- 3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant, dextran and starch combination is used in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 10 grams per liter of liquor treated.
- 4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant, dextran and starch combination is used in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 2 grams per liter of liquor treated.
- 5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant, dextran or starch are added separately or together to the Bayer process liquor.
- 6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant and starch are added together to the Bayer process liquor and one solution and separate from the dextran.
- 7. A method according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant and starch are added together to the Bayer process liquor upstream of the dextran addition to the Bayer process liquor.
- 8. A method according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant, dextran and starch

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combination contacts the Bayer process liquor at one or more points-selected from the group consisting of primary settler feed, bauxite pretreatment, bauxite digestion and the flask tanks.

- 9. A method according to claim 1 wherein the step of separating the red mud from the liquor is carried out by a separator selected from the group consisting of settlers, thickeners, centrifuges and filters.
- 10. A method according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant is selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of acrylic acid, copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide, copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide modified to contain a hydroxamic acid moiety and copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide modified to contain an acrylic acid moiety.
- An agent for treatment of Bayer process liquor containing red mud said agent comprising, in combination, a water soluble synthetic flocculant, dextran and starch in a quantity sufficient to increase separation of the red mud from the Bayer process liquor.
- 12. An agent as claimed in claim 11 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant, dextran and starch combination is used in an amount of from about 0.01 to about 10 g/l of liquor treated.
- 13. An agent as claimed in claim 11 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant, dextran and starch combinations is used in an amount of from 0.1 to about 2 g/l of liquor treated.
- 14. An agent as claimed in claims 11 wherein the agent comprises two components, a first component comprising water soluble synthetic flocculant and starch and a second component comprising dextran, the two components being suitable for separate addition to the Bayer process liquor.

15. An agent as claimed in claim 11 wherein the water soluble synthetic flocculant is selected from the group consisting of homopolymers of acrylic acid, copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide, copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide modified to contain hydroxamic acid moiety and copolymers of acrylic acid and acrylamide modified to contain an acrylic acid moiety.